

**Amendment to the Specification**

*Please replace Abstract with:*

“Disclosed ~~herein~~ is a reinforcing bar coupler which is intended to easily couple reinforcing bars in reinforced concrete work, ~~thus reducing a construction period and construction costs~~. The reinforcing bar coupler includes a cover unit to cover reinforcing bars, and a locking bushing fitted over the cover unit to firmly couple the cover unit to the reinforcing bars. The cover unit has a circular hole therein, and includes two or more pieces to cover circumferences of the reinforcing bars. Outer surfaces of the pieces are inclined in the same direction to form a tapered surface, and annular grooves are provided on an inner surface of each piece to receive annular ribs in the annular grooves. The locking bushing ~~comprises~~ includes at least one locking bushing, and has on an inner surface thereof a tapered surface to correspond to the tapered surface of the cover unit.”